

HOUSE BILL 2427  
By Ford S

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 10, relative to the qualifications and regulations governing constables.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-10-102, is amended by deleting the language of the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following subsections:

(a) To qualify for election or appointment to the office of constable, a person shall:

- (1) be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
- (2) be a qualified voter of the district;
- (3) be able to read and write;
- (4) not have been convicted in any federal or state court of a felony; and
- (5) not have been separated or discharged from the armed forces of the United States with other than an honorable discharge.

(b) Any person seeking the office of constable shall file with the county election commission, along with the nominating petition, an affidavit signed by the candidate affirming that the candidate meets the requirements of this section. In the event that person seeks election to the office of constable by the county legislative body to fill a

vacancy in office, the same affidavit shall be filed with the county clerk prior to the election.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 10, is amended by adding the following section:

Section 8-10-1\_ .

(a) Any constable may wear the official uniform of the type and design with the insignias of the Tennessee constable as described in subsection (b). Wearing of the uniform is permissive with the individual constable when such uniform is purchased by the constable; provided, however, if such uniform is provided by the county, then the uniform shall be worn in accordance with a dress code adopted by the county legislative body or the sheriff of such county.

(b) The official uniform for the constable shall consist of:

(1) taupe pants with a one (1) inch wide brown stripe running vertically down each side of the pants;

(2) shirts of either dark brown or white, at the discretion of the constable, displaying a patch of a design approved by the Tennessee Constable Association;

(3) a necktie of either taupe or brown, at the discretion of the constable; and

(4) black leather gear and black shoes. Western type belts, holsters and tie-downs are prohibited.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 10, is amended by adding the following section:

Section 8-10-1\_ .

(a) Constable patrol cars may be white with a brown stripe running horizontally along the upper side. This color scheme shall not be used by any

other state or local law enforcement official or agency. When adopted for use by a county constable, the stripe design and other emblems and lettering shall conform to the official uniform markings adopted by the Tennessee Constable Association on file with the director, and approved by the commissioner of safety.

(b) Constable patrol cars which conform to the description in subsection (a), which are being operated as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-414, and which are used as emergency vehicles, may be equipped with blue lights and/or red lights and sirens.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a county constable from operating unmarked cars for other law enforcement purposes.

(d) Any constable operating a patrol car and using the lights described in this section must have graduated from the last calendar date in-service sponsored by the Tennessee Constable Association.

(e) Each constable shall be responsible for all costs in marking patrol cars.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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